

Message Text

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41

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TAGS: ECON, UR

SUBJ: CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECREE ON INITIATIVE OF SOUTH

UKRAINE TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS TO COMBINE EFFORTS FOR
IMPROVING FREIGHT HAULAGE

REF: MOSCOW A-28, 1/27/74 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CENTRAL PRESS JANUARY 24 CARRIES CPSU CENTRAL
COMMITTEE DECREE ACCLAIMING INITIATIVE OF SOUTHERN UKRAINE/
BLACK SEA SHIPPING, RAIL, AND TRUCK TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS
IN UNIFYING EFFORTS TO SPEED UP FREIGHT HAULAGE AND REDUCE
DELAYS IN DELIVERIES. TRANSPORTATION MINISTRIES AND THEIR
SUBORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY EXHORTED TO
IMITATE AND EMULATE THIS INITIATIVE. DECREE APPEARS AIMED
AT BREAKING DOWN NARROW BUREAUCRATIC ATTITUDES CHARACTERISTIC
OF OFFICIALDOM IN SOVIET ECONOMIC MINISTRIES. EMANATION OF
DECREE FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE (WITHOUT REFERENCE TO COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS) IS FURTHER INDICATION OF CONTINUALLY INCREASING
PARTY CONTROL OVER SOVIET ECONOMY. END SUMMARY

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2. SIDE-BY-SIDE ARTICLES ON FRONT PAGES OF CENTRAL PRESS JAN 24 CARRY REPORTAGE ON CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECREE AS WELL AS COVERAGE OF "SOCIALIST OBLIGATIONS" UNDERTAKEN BY BLACK SEA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, ODESSA-KISHINEV RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION AND ODESSA OBLAST' PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION OF FREIGHT TRANSPORT. THESE OBLIGATIONS CONCERN COORDINATION AND UNIFICATION OF EFFORTS FOR EXPEDITING FREIGHT TURNOVER AND REDUCING DELAYS IN CARGO TRANSSHIPMENT FROM ONE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO ANOTHER. FRUITS OF EFFORTS -- APPARENTLY BEGUN AT BEGINNING OF 1974 -- HAVE INCLUDED FOR YEAR: PROCESSING 550 THOUSAND TONS OF FREIGHT OVER PLAN GOALS BY SHIPPING COMPANY; 4.5 MILLION RUBLES ABOVE-PLAN PROFITS ACHIEVED BY ODESSA-KISHINEV RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION; AND HAULAGE BY TRUCKERS OF 100 THOUSAND TONS OF FREIGHT OVER PLAN TARGETS.

3. CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECREE, IN ADDITION TO HEAPING PRAISE ON THESE THREE TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR "INITIATIVE" IN UNIFYING OPERATIONS, OBLIGATES ALL-UNION AND REPUBLICAN TRANSPORTATION MINISTRIES AND THEIR SUBORDINATE ENTITIES TO EMBARK ON WIDESPREAD APPLICATION OF THIS PROCESS FOR ASSURING "MORE RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION." IT FURTHER INSTRUCTS LEADING RADIO, TELEVISION, AND NEWSPAPER ORGANIZATIONS TO DISSEMINATE WIDELY RESULTS OF THIS INITIATIVE AS WELL AS DETAILS OF "SOCIALIST COMPETITIONS" TO BE (HOPEFULLY) UNDERTAKEN BY TRANSPORTATION GROUPS ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY.

4. COMMENT: CC DECREE AND COMMENTARY ARE NOTEWORTHY IN SEVERAL RESPECTS. FIRST, TRANSPORTATION AS ONE OF WEAKEST LINKS IN USSR ECONOMIC STRUCTURE IS LONG-OVERDUE TARGET FOR OFFICIAL ATTENTION. COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES BY THREE FORMS OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AT SUCH PIVOTAL POINTS AS ODESSA CLEARLY DESIREABLE EVEN IF HITHERTO UNATTAINABLE. DIFFICULTIES IN COORDINATING WORK OF ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN SEPARATE MINISTRIES COMPLICATED BY EXISTENCE OF NARROW BUREAUCRATIC VIEWPOINTS (VEDOMSTVENNOST') AMONG PETTY OFFICIALS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE ONLY UPWARD THROUGH THEIR MINISTRY FOR PLAN FULFILLMENT AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT. THIS DECREE DOUBTLESS INTENDED TO HACK AWAY AT THAT MENTALITY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MORE RATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR EXPEDITING FREIGHT HAULAGE.

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5. EMBASSY VIEWS FACT THAT DECREE EMANATED FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE (WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS) AS FURTHER INDICATION (SEE REPAIR) OF INCREASING PARTY CONTROL OVER ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC MATTERS.

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